TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 25, 2001 LB 543

certainly would impact it but it would not make it zero. My thought again is that I do believe that we need to honor the notion that we use public monies for public services, public education. Does that mean that I am against private and parochial colleges or private and parochial schools? Absolutely not. I think they provide a valuable contribution. I think the value of their contribution is going to be directly related to their independence from tax monies. I think we need to allow that system to operate and be financed the way it is with private contributions, not with public tax monies. So, for that reason, I support the reconsideration motion and the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I've listened quite awhile here and I'm...I'm kind of stymied and perplexed because I'm also a Catholic and Senator Chambers is mentioning the religion and the church at great length and great detail and I have voted for the Chambers amendment. will vote for the reconsider motion. I probably should not do this as a Catholic because I am...but I will have to explain that I'm not your typical Irish Catholic or German Catholic. I am of Czech ancestry, first generation, as a matter of fact, and, as you probably know, the Czechs are free-thinkers and radicals and more or less troublemakers in the church and so, therefore, I voted against the church's wishes many times and I'm going to do this again. And I don't see anything wrong with increasing the needs-based scholarship program. For heaven's sakes, it isn't even that much. If you look at this amendment, it isn't that much. We definitely need to increase the scholarship program because one of the reasons is the fact that tuition has been raised at the University of Nebraska. I happen to have a member of my family who's...who lost his job because of downsizing, corporate takeovers, and he is now in a no-win position to send his children to the university, so I have a granddaughter who could be affected by this program, and I'm sure many of you do too. I have heard a lot of...I've not heard a lot of those who are in opposition to this amendment. I have been off the floor somewhat because I did have visitors, school visitors here today who are interested in this...in this